

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph at page 10, line 17 through page 11, line 9 with the following amended paragraph:

In a conventional approach, all applications 26 have an implicit model of the world that they represent. This implicit model guides the design of the user interface and the functionality of the program. The problem with an implicit model is that it is all in the mind of the designers and developers, and so is often not thoroughly or consistently implemented in the product. Furthermore, since the model is not represented in the product, the product cannot act in accordance with the model's principles, explain its behavior in terms of the model, or otherwise be helpful to the user in explaining how it works. The speech center system 20 has an explicit model of the world (e.g., domain model 70) which will serve as a foundation for language understanding and reasoning. Some of the basic concepts that the speech center system 20 models ~~using~~ use in the domain model 70 are:

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|------------|---|
| Things | A basic category that includes all others |
| Agents | Animate objects, people, organizations, computer programs |
| Objects | Inanimate objects, including documents and their sub-objects |
| Locations | Places in the world, within the computer, the network, and within documents |
| Time | Includes dates, as well as time of day. |
| Actions | Things that agents can do to alter the state of the world |
| Attributes | Characteristics of things, such as color, author, etc. |
| Events | An action that has occurred, will occur, or is occurring over a span of time. |